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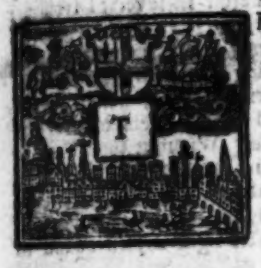
By Henry Stonecastle, of *Lincoln's-Inn*, *Esq*;

SATURDAY November 13, 1742.

From my CHAMBERS.



THE following Essay comes from a young Gentleman of *Oxford*, who has given a very well-tim'd Lecture to the gay young People of the present Age: Some Reflections I shall make upon it will more properly arise to my Readers after they have read it.

Senectutem ut a dipiscantur Omnes optant, Eandem accusant adeptam. CIC. de Senec.

Mr. SPECTATOR,

SOME few Weeks before my Father died, (whose Memory I shall always honour) as we were sitting together, we accidentally fell into a Discourse, in which he thoroughly convinc'd me, that nothing but a *Youth* spent in *Virtue* can produce *Happiness* in *Old Age*.

There is nothing (said he) Men wish for so much as to live to be *old*; and yet there is nothing gives Rise to more *Complaints* than *Old Age*. If it is not in itself eligible, how foolish do we act in praying for it! If it is, how ingrateful are we to murmur at it! I myself have no Inclination to find fault with my long Life, as many have done; nor am I sorry that I have *liv'd*, since I have liv'd in such a Manner as not to have been born in *vain*; and as I am not sorry that I have *liv'd* to this Time, so neither am I unwilling to live still longer: For all those Infirmities and Weaknesses which are by most esteem'd the *Evils* of *Old Age*, appear to me to proceed either from a gradual Decay of *Nature*, and such are very supportable in themselves, or to be occasion'd by our own *Follies* or *Vices*; and these indeed are very troublesome. To *murmur* at the *first*, would be accusing the Laws of Providence; to *repine* at the *last*, which we must own to be just, as we brought them upon ourselves, is as preposterous as wicked: But as it is often through our own Faults that we are miserable when *old*; so likewise is it, I am confident, in our own Power to procure a happy *Old Age*: And this is only to be attain'd by a *Youth* spent in the Exercise of *Virtue*. To such a one *Old Age* will either have no Evils, or very inconsiderable ones. The Thought of having liv'd *well* will assuage all his Pains, will be a sure *Asylum* in all his Sufferings, and will afford more *Ease* and *Pleasure* to his *Mind*, than the most vexatious Distemper can *Trouble* or *Pain* to his *Body*. Therefore, as nothing should deter us from being *Vicious* more than the Fear of that dreadful *Reflection* which will attend us through our whole *Lives*; so nothing appears to me to be a greater *Incentive* to Virtue than the Thought of the Pleasure we shall take in our *Old Age*, from the Consciousness of a Life well spent. The convincing you of this is what I am aiming at by my present Discourse; I do not know how to do it more effectually than by calling to your Mind two old Gentlemen of your Acquaintance. *Demea* is for ever peevish, morose, and out of Humour: *Micio*, easy, good-natur'd, and always in Temper. Gout and Stone torment the Body of *Demea*; and Reflection on his past Actions, and Remorse for his former Follies prey upon his Mind; so that he is for ever overwhelm'd with Pain and Misery. No *Pain* or *Distemper* discompose the Body of *Micio*; a Consciousness of his past good Actions, and the *Pleasure* that he reaps from the Recollection of his former Life, smooths his Mind, and warms his Bosom with a continual Happiness. Indeed there are very few Evils that touch those who are advanc'd in Years, but may be prevented by the wisely tempering our *Pleasures* when *young*. *Exercise* and *Temperance* can preserve the Strength of our Bodies and Vigour of our Minds to *Old Age*; of which Indolence and Debauchery can rob even our Youth: For I make no Doubt but the Mind, no less than the Body, must suffer from an immoderate *Use* of *Pleasure*. To evince this, fancy any one in the most exquisite sensual Transport; whilst he is enjoying it, Has he any Use of his Mind? Are not his *Reason* and *Thought* quite lost? Whilst therefore we are giving the Reins to our loose Appetites, we are destroying the noble Faculties of the Mind. If then you would preserve your *Reason* sound, and your Mind in all its Vigour, live temperately whilst you are young, and take the Word of an experienc'd Person, you will reap the Fruit of it when old.——But this Love of Tattling, which I must allow to be one of the Foibles of *Old Age*, has made me, I am afraid, deviate a little from my Subject: For it is not only the having all the FACULTIES of the Mind undamag'd, that can constitute a Happiness in *Old Age*; but, unless to these we add the *Reflection* (as I said before) of a Life well spent; the former, instead of promoting your Happiness, will only make you more sensible of your Misery. I don't know how it is; but I have always thought the Pleasure that attends the performing a *good Action*, is alone a sufficient Reward for doing it. I never gave a Farthing to what I thought an Object of Charity, but, I am sure, I receiv'd as much Satisfaction in bestowing, as the Person could do in receiving it; and, if ever I reflected on it afterwards, it was a Renewal of my Pleasure. How happy then must that *Old Age* be which can employ itself in the *Recollection* of good Actions! 'tis this preserves our Chearfulness to the last, and makes us agreeable *Company* to People younger than ourselves. And as I love a Youth in whom there is something grave and elderly; so I no less approve of an *old Man* who still retains something *sprightly* and *juvenile*; this is only to be procur'd from having rightly employ'd our *Youth*. From whence it appears, that Virtue is no less conducive to our *living happily* in this World, than it is in the next; and the having constantly follow'd her Dictates, makes us, in spite of *Old Age*, happy in *Ourselves*, esteem'd and reverenc'd by others: For it is not *grey Hairs* or *Wrinkles* that can challenge *Authority*, but a long Series of laudable and virtuous Actions. In paying a proper Deference to one who has by those Means deserv'd it, all Nations should emulate the *Lacedemonians*. But he indeed, who after a Life well employ'd, falls into any *unjustifiable Foibles*, or *silly Peculiarities*, and, like a lazy Writer, fails in the *last Act*; such a one forfeits all the Esteem he had been gathering, and, like a foolish Gamester, loses at one Throw what he had been Years in procuring. But even the *Foibles* of *Old Age* usually proceed from the Follies of Youth; from those Fountains flow all the Miseries so much complain'd of. I hope, by this Time, *my Son*, you are convinc'd that nothing can secure to you a sure Happiness hereafter, but the exercising yourself in Virtue whilst young. This is a Truth that every one must sooner or later acknowledge. This Monsieur *Des Barreaux*, who in his Youth had been one of the gayest of the gay Nation of *France*, was thoroughly sensible of: He would often say, That, after a *Life* spent in *Gaiety*, nothing could make an *Old Age* supportable but a sincere *Penitence*: It was *that* alone which afforded him some glimmering Comfort. But he expresses his own Thoughts much better than I can do in that noble *French Epigram* which he compos'd some Days before his Death: If I can recollect it, I will repeat you a *Translation* of it. The Original is in one of Mr. *Addison's Spectators*.

'Whilst all thy Judgments, *Mighty God*, are right,
'You joy to pardon, and in Grace delight,
'But so much I have sinn'd, that should I gain
'Thy Grace, thy Justice must receive a Stain.
'Yes, O my God! my Crimes have dar'd so high,
'Thou can'st but chuse what Punishment t'apply.
'Thy Interest forbids thee to forgive;
'And e'en thy *Mercy* says, I must not live.
'Fulfil then, O my *God!* thy glorious Will,
'Frown on the *Tears* these sorrowing Eyes distill:
'Strike me, and let thy *Thunder* speak thy Pow'r,
'Thy *Vengeance*, even dying, I'll adore.
'But on what Place can'st thou thy Thunder throw,
'On which the Blood of *Jesus* did not flow?

With these Lines my Father ended his Lecture; which, if it may be thought any way agreeable or instructive, you would oblige me by communicating it to the Publick.

Oxford. Your constant Reader, *D. H.*

As a Supplement to my Correspondent's Letter I shall give some Miscellaneous Thoughts on *Youth* and *Age* from the great Lord *Bacon*, which are esteem'd as fine as any of that noble Author's.

'A young Man may be old in Hours, if he hath lost 'no Time; but that happeneth rarely. Youth gene-'rally is like our *first Thoughts*, quick and sprightly, 'not so wise and prudent as our *second*; is fitter to 'invent than to judge; fitter for Execution than for 'Counsel; and fitter for new Projects than for settled 'Business: For the Experience of *Age*, in Things that 'fall within the Compass of it, directeth them; but 'in new Things, abuseth them. The Errors of *young* 'Men are the Ruin of Business; but the Errors of *aged* 'Men amount but to this; That more might have 'been done, or sooner. *Young Men*, in the Conduct 'and Management of Actions, embrace more than 'they can hold, fly to the End without Consideration 'of the Means and Degrees, pursue some few Prin-'ciples which they have chanced upon absurdly; which 'draws unknown Inconveniencies. *Men* of *Age* ob-'ject too much, consult too long, adventure too little, 'repent too soon, and seldom drive Business home to 'the full Period, but content themselves with a Me-'diocrity of Success. Certainly it is good to com-'pound Employments of both; for that it will be 'good for the present, because the Virtues of either 'Age may correct the Defects of both; and good for 'Succession, that *young Men* may be Learners, while 'Men in *Age* are Actors. And lastly, Good for poli-'tical Reasons; because Authority followeth *old Men*, 'and Favour and Popularity Youth.'

These general Observations, by Lord *Bacon*, may very easily be illustrated by Examples which we daily see in *private Life*: Every Sentence is a Theme sufficient for an Essay, and I shall take an Opportunity of making Use of some of them in a Manner which shall not be merely *instructive* but *entertaining*.

N. B. *The Metamorphosis of* Narcissus *into a* Looking-Glass *shall be inserted in our next.*

The DOMESTICK INTELLIGENCER.

THURSDAY. *St. James's Coffee-House.*

Several Conferences are *nightly* held by the leading Politicians of both Parties: The *Broad Bottoms* are making their utmost Effort, and look on the L——d of ——, Mr. ——, Sir *John* ——, *&c. &c.* as *Deserters*. It is expected St. *St--ph--n's* Chapel will open with a very full Assembly, and very warm Debates.

——As the two late *Chief Orators* are to display their Rhetoric in another Place, it is a Point of great Speculation *who* are to succeed *them*——*as there is as much Occasion for* Opposition *as ever.*

Ditto *George's, Temple-Bar.*

It is certain that a late *Commander in Chief*, well vers'd in the whole Art of *Political Campaigns*, has began to *muster* his Troops, and will have them very *early* in the *Field*: The Allies are hop'd to be as vigorous in their Measures; though the *Grand Enemy* gives out, that, in humble Imitation of the Court of *F*——, he has secur'd a *Neutrality*, of such a Nature as will as much prevent an *Action* at *W*—*s*——*r* this Winter, as the *D*——*h Neutrality* has already any in *Flanders*.—But it's hop'd there is this Difference, That in the *Domestick Alliance* there are no *Mercenary Troops*, but all *True Britons*, in the *Service* of their *Country*.

We hear a new *Corps* of *Huſſar Authors* are raising in order to be employ'd in the *Winter Campaign*.

FRIDAY. *Cockpit, Whitehall.*

The *old* Custom of Coudering to *Paris* is reviv'd, and the Messengers, who are pleas'd with that Trip, are in great Hopes the *old* Custom of Negociating is to be brought into Fashion.——*It is said, if things do not succeed in their present Trail, the* Noble Lord, *who was lately at the* Hague, *will pay a Visit to* Versailles. How far he succeeded at *one Place* has not *yet appear'd*; how far he may at *another* will be a *greater Doubt*.—*For what went our Troops to* Flanders?

MONDAY, *Nov.* 8. *Cocoa Tree, Pall-Mall.*

The Representation of two Great Cities to their Representatives have given such Disgust at a certain Place, that several late Patriots have chang'd their Note, and are against giving and receiving Instructions.——*However, as this is the* Crisis *to regain and* fix *our* Constitutional Liberties, *it is hop'd the Opportunity will not be suffer'd to be slip'd through* C—— Finesse, *or* M——l Chicanery.

Ditto. *From Lady* Countess's *Tea Table.*

By private Intelligence from the *Dr*—*w*—*g-Room*, it is assur'd, that there has been an *important Reconciliation* brought about between a *Great Man* and his *Lady*, just at a Crisis when it was fear'd, in this eloping Age, she might, like some other Ladies, pay a Visit to Foreign Parts.——Mrs. *Gravenire* gave a strange Comment on this Advice, and said, a *great deal* of *Politicks* depended upon it, and she did not know but such a *Change* in *Gallantry* might bring about a Change in the *M*——*y*.——*But what* Love *has to do with* Politicks, *must be left to the* Consideration *of* sage Adepts *and* secret Historians.

TUESDAY. *St. James's Coffee-House.*

The Conversation of this Place turns on the State of the French Army in Germany, and the Dissention which reigns among their *Marshals*: It is expected at *Paris*, that some one will be recall'd and disgrac'd, but who that is to be, depends, according to the French Account, on as odd a Circumstance as can be imagin'd, viz. *One Lady being turn'd out of Favour, and another taken in.*—The Intelligence runs thus:

By a private Letter from Paris, [too long to be inserted] we are inform'd that the Female Administration is entirely overturn'd, Madam de Mailly is retir'd from Court, but has a Pension of 40,000 Livres, and Madam de la Tournelle succeeds in her Place. In consequence of this, tho' that seems a little strange, it is said, that another great General will be recall'd as well as poor Marshal Maillebois, who is at present as ill treated by the French Politicians as he lately was by the Austrian Hussars.

WEDNESDAY. *Dick's, Temple-Bar.*

On a Certain SOLEMN OCCASION. *A* FABLE.

HOW short of Heav'n must human Pray'rs advance,
When indolently Man will trust to *Chance*?
Fix'd in a Slough when old *Hob*'s Waggon stuck,
He thought that Heav'n must pity his ill Luck:
Over and over, yet again the Lout
Pray'd;——pray'd to *Jove* to get his Waggon out.
'—Vain are thy Pray'rs, the angry God reply'd,
'Without one Effort of thy *own Strength* try'd;
'Apply your Shoulder to the Wheel behind;
'Strain hard; pull up; your Waggon free you'll find.
'Think you, we Gods in Heav'n have nought to do
'But *listen* to your *Pray'rs*, and *grant* them too?

MORAL.

Heav'n gives the Conquest; *Heav'n supports the* Right:
But whence can Conquest *come without the* Fight?

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

Constantinople, Oct. 6. Schach Nadir has made fresh Instances to the Porte, for adjusting in an amicable Manner, and by a solemn Treaty, all his Differences with her. To this End it is said he has offer'd, among other Conditions, to draw a Line from Ardebis to Chussan, which shall be the Bounds of the two Empires, and to cede all the Country that shall lye on this Side of that Line. We don't yet know what Resolution the Porte has taken on this Head; but as she is inform'd that there are great Commotions in Persia, and that several of the Grandees, that have revolted against the Schach, keep a Correspondence with the Great Mogul, who furnishes them with every Thing they want, it is probable that the Divan will spin out this Affair as long as possible, in hopes of obtaining better Conditions, inasmuch as the Grand Signor having nothing to fear from the Christian Powers, with whom his Highness has resolv'd to keep up a good Harmony, he may, in Case of Need, employ all his Forces against the Persians.

Stockholm, Oct. 27. The King declar'd a few Days since, in a full Assembly of the Senate and before the Deputies of the Dyet, that nothing chagrin'd him more than the Loss of Finland; that if the States had not diverted him two Years ago from his Design of taking upon him the Command of the Army, he thinks this great Misfortune might have been prevented, and that he would have sacrificed his Life rather than have miscarry'd; that he always look'd upon the Swedish Nation as one of the bravest in the World; that it only wanted to be well manag'd; and that if an honourable Peace could not be obtain'd, nothing should hinder him from putting himself at the Head of the Army next Spring, in order to employ the little Time he has to live for the Benefit of his Subjects.

Bologna, Oct. 30. Though the Spaniards continue fortifying their Camp, they still appear to have a Mind to advance towards the Panaro as soon as they are join'd by some Troops that are coming through Romagna. The Austrians have taken Post at Bozano, on the Territory of this City, where they are intrenching themselves.

Geneva, Nov. 7. We hear from Dauphine, that a Courier from Spain is arriv'd in Don Philip's Camp, with Advice that the Troops actually under his Royal Highness would be join'd in a few Days by the Corps lately sent from Spain.

Genoa, Nov. 3. The Master of a French Vessel arriv'd here from Barbary, reports, that the Son of the late Dey of Algiers, who had taken Shelter at Cairo, lately arriv'd from thence at Tripoli, at the Head of 4000 Men, with a Design to put himself in Possession o his Father's Dignity, in which he was to be supported by some Troops that he had made sure of: That the Dey of Tripoli at first gave him a favourable Reception; but soon after caus'd him to be beheaded along with the principal Persons in his Retinue, at the Request of the Dey of Algiers; and that he seiz'd at the same time all the Effects of this young Prince, among which there was a Chest with 200,000 Gold Zequins in it.

Copy of a Letter from the Count de Saxe to the Marshal Maillebois, dated from the Camp at Ellenbogen, Oct. 20, *N. S.*

'SIR,

'Tho' my Advice has not been taken, I am too 'firmly attach'd to the King's Service to keep Silence 'at this Juncture.

'The Design of marching to the Inn is a Chimera. 'The Inn is not a River that may be pass'd in Sight 'of 20,000 Men, who have but twelve Leagues of 'Territory to guard; the rest of the Enemies would 'renew the Blockade of Prague, and our brave Army 'there must be taken. I cannot overcome the Grief 'which I have been plung'd into by this melancholy 'Prospect. Moreover, all our Draught-Horses are 'uncapable of performing such a long March, and the 'Army will perish by Fatigue in so late a Season of 'the Year as this.

'There is a Position that might be taken, i. e. to 'canton the Army behind the Naab, the Right to 'the Danube, the Head Quarters at Amberg, and the 'Left drawing towards Egra. You may draw Sub'sistence from the Danube, Nuremberg and Franco'nia. The Enemy cannot fix themselves between Bo'hemia and the Naab, because the Country is too poor 'and too barren for them to live in; therefore they 'will be oblig'd to subsist in Bohemia, at a Distance 'far enough for you to be appriz'd in time of their 'Motions. Besides, by so doing you preserve a Po'sition that keeps all Germany in awe. The Fate of 'the War is not decided, and keeps all the World in 'suspence. In fine, if the King would have his 'Army draw near the Rhine, we shall have time to 'send requisitorial Letters to the States of the Empire, 'to erect Magazines, to march in several Divisions, '&c.

'The German Princes may insist upon the Queen 'of Hungary's not following our Army, in order to 'prevent the Ruin of their Country, which would 'preserve our Troops, and enable them to arrive in 'good Order on the Rhine. Without these Precau'tions we shall be oblig'd to encamp and to forrage; 'by this we shall make all the People, through whose 'Countries we pass, rise up against us and ruin our 'Army. This is what I thought myself bound in 'Duty to represent to you.

'I have the Honour to be, &c.

Sign'd MAURICE DE SAXE.

From the Head Quarters at Waidhausen in the Upper Palatinate, Oct. 27. We are now marching under the Command of the Grand Duke with an Army consisting of 30,000 Men compleat, besides 3000 Croats, and five Regiments of Hussars. Berenclau's Body in Bavaria is also reinforced with four Regiments of Horse, and all the Croates which were formerly with Marshal Kevenhuller in Bavaria; so that this General will be superior to Marshal Seckendorf. The French are marching with great Precipitation between Weiden and Neymarcht, and it is thought will soon (if they have not already) evacuate Egra. Our Hussars and Croates are close after them, and we are every Day more and more incumber'd with Prisoners. They bring us in regularly between 2 and 300 every Day, and kill as many. We have taken a great Number of the Horse Prisoners, which were fine Troops, but are now all ruin'd by their desperate Marches, especially that towards Cauden, and the Retreat from thence. Their Infantry is much inferior to that of the other Armies they brought into the Empire. It looks as if the Grand Duke intended to keep close to the Danube. We are determin'd to follow them to the last Man. Seckendorf must, it is thought, either retreat or be destroy'd by Berenclau, or fall into our Hands. All the Places along the Danube, as Ingolstadt and Straubing, are destitute of Troops, Marshal Seckendorf having taken all with him; so that we hope to be Masters of that River. Marshal Bell-Isle seems now without Resource, and is ill provided at Prague.

Ratisbon, Nov. 4. The first Column of Marshal Maillebois's Army arriv'd Yesterday, at One in the Afternoon, on the North Side of the Danube near Stadt-am-hoff, at which we were the more surpriz'd, because no Preparations had been made there for the Reception of these Troops; on the contrary, we thought they were going to Ingolstadt, where there are large Magazines. Immediately after the Arrival of this first Column our Magistrates shut all the Gates of the City, and the Burghers were order'd to mount Guard. The second Column follows close at the Heels of the other. It is not yet decided whether those Troops will stay in this Neighbourhood, or proceed to Straubingen.

Count d'Auffass, Judge of the City of Neubourg in the Upper Palatinate, arriv'd here the 30th of last Month at Night, having made his Escape from that City, to which the Austrians had set Fire two Days before, in order to oblige a Body of French Troops to come out of it. The Judge gives the following Particulars of this Affair: The Austrian Detachment arriving before Neubourg, summon'd the French to surrender, which the latter absolutely refusing, the Austrians set fire to the Suburb, from whence the Flames spread into the City: The French then finding themselves obliged to come out, attempted to cut their Way through the Austrians; but the latter being

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FROM THIS.
ISSUE